

By DANNY GREENE

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ALEXANDRIA — State Supt. of Education Louis Michot said here yesterday he believes those involved in the Southern University incident which left two students dead started out "in good faith."

Michot added, however, that everyone makes mistakes.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson of Chicago, also addressing the convention of the Louisiana Education Association meeting here, placed the burden of blame for the university's problems squarely on the shoulders of the "white-controlled power structure" in the state.

Michot said he believed the majority of students, the governor, the state board of education and Southern's administration all felt they were doing the right thing.

"THE GOVERNOR made mistakes, I made mistakes, the state board of education made mistakes, the administration made mistakes, the students made mistakes. But remember," he added, "the only perfect man was crucified. Nobody would listen to him."

Jackson, armed with a cache of analogies and metaphors, said, "He who stumbles in the dark is not at fault, but rather he who creates the darkness."

Jackson likened black people to a family which has drifted apart while whites were described as "strange folk" and "bacteria."

Jackson admonished the LEA and all black interest groups in Louisiana to "close the door when you have a meeting and lock out all those strange folk and bring together the estranged ones, whether to fight or to play."

Jackson likened the situation at Southern to a cut on the hand. If attended to, the cut will heal, he said, but if left unclean, bacteria will set in and if left alone long enough, gangrene will set in and the whole body can die.

Michot said the core of the problem at the SU campus was that nobody would bend. "The line was drawn, there was no compromise," he said.

Michot was referring to a demand by students that they

control the hiring and firing of school personnel. Southern University president Dr. Leon Netterville refused to recognize that demand and the board of education backed him up.

THE STATE superintendent said that even though many mistakes were made in the handling of the situation, "We must resolve never to let it happen again."

The deaths at Southern said Michot, might move people to find solutions to the problems of the university.

"The lives they gave were not in vain," he said. "I believe the solution will be found, and the condition that brought on this tragedy will be changed."

Jackson sees the situation at black colleges and universities in the state as "sinful" because to him sin is "separation or alienation," or "forces that are estranged from each other."

"When black faculty and administrators and students are apart from each other, they are in a state of sin . . . if they do not overcome it with love, the wages of that sin will be death, physical and spiritual."

History, said Jackson, teaches that, "when we open up the black family and invite in sin — bacteria — we will not solve the problem."

HE SAID TROOPERS and whites were strange to the Southern University situation, adding "when they come in, they destroy."

He said the objective of whites was not to kill two black students but to "kill the entire black college system."

Michot was careful not to lay the blame at the feet of anyone but did imply that the administration of Southern is out of touch with the students.

"We need to learn from our kids," Michot said. "We're not on the same wave length with them, and elderly administrators at some of our schools certainly are not on the same wave length."

The superintendent intimated that one of the failings of education has been that students were not taught to get along with each other.

Jackson Blames Whites NOV 21 1972

SU 'Mistakes' Cited by Michot